

He recently scored a perfect 800 in English on the SAT and a near perfect 750 in math.

As a result, Matt has been accepted to the Illinois Math and Science Academy in Aurora, IL, which is a school for 10th–12th grade Illinois students who excel in mathematics and science. I want to wish Matt the best as he begins this new chapter in his life. He is an amazing young student who I know will go far and do great things.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,  
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS  
ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2000*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4577) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote to move this bill forward but also to express my concerns about what I consider to be seriously inadequate funding levels for education, health, and job training.

Chairman JOHN PORTER did an admirable job constructing this bill considering the difficult 302(B) allocation he was given in the budget resolution. I opposed that resolution because it inadequately funded so many agencies. But as in years past, the Senate has more generous subcommittee allocations and therefore will fund many programs at higher levels than the House. Furthermore, the President has consistently advocated higher spending levels, though he has funded them through unacceptable taxes and cuts in key programs that members of both parties reject. Hence, as this bill moves through the process of Senate consideration and then the House-Senate conference, allocation levels will rise to what I believe will be sound funding levels appropriately funded. Therefore I vote in favor of this bill to move it forward in the process. I would note that last year's House Labor-HHS proposal provided only \$35.6 billion for education programs while the President proposed a total of \$37.1 billion. Ultimately, the process produced a bill that provided \$38 billion for education and tied to that level of funding was greater flexibility so communities could meet their own needs. I have no doubt the same result will occur again this year which is why I am willing to put aside my concerns with this specific bill and move this legislation forward.

H.R. 4577 provides funding increases for a number of programs of importance, including many health initiatives. I am very proud that Chairman PORTER has targeted community health centers for support as these facilities are the only source of affordable health care in many neighborhoods. Helping people se-

cure health insurance should be a priority for this Congress, but that health insurance will not be helpful unless people have a medical facility they can use. The House proposal increases funding by \$81.3 million, \$31 million more than the President's request.

This legislation also provides critical funding increases for programs that help communities provide HIV/AIDS education and prevention services. We must be vigilant in our battle against the spread of this disease. H.R. 4577 provides \$130 million for the Ryan White AIDS Prevention and Education programs, \$5 million above the President's request.

In some cases, our bill is far more generous than the Senate. The House provides \$86 million more than the Senate and \$156 million more than the President for the Centers for Disease Control. While we were not able to provide the full 15% increase previously agreed to for NIH, Chairman PORTER's bill does increase funding by 5%, the same as the President requested. Chairman PORTER also has made a commitment to work toward the full 15% increase in conference with the Senate. The House bill is also much more generous to SAMHSA providing \$50 million more than the Senate, a \$60 million increase over last year. SAMHSA funding is critical to helping deliver substance abuse and mental health services to communities.

JOB TRAINING/WELFARE

While I am very happy to see an increase in funding for Job Corps programs, residential facilities that provide job training, placement and support services to at-risk youth, I am deeply concerned about funding cuts to many of our other job training programs. While the economy is experiencing its highest rates of growth in our history and unemployment and welfare rolls are at an all time low, job training is more important than ever. Many families moving off public assistance can only become economically independent and secure with help to develop their skills and to win their battles against addiction. They urgently need these job training programs if they are going to successfully transition off of welfare. The cuts to the one-stop career centers as well as WIA adult training grants are both going to undermine our effort to move families off of welfare and to help low wage workers move up the skill and wage ladder. I urge my colleagues to visit a one stop center in their district to see how effective they are.

Another area of great concern is the underfunding of the Social Services Block Grant, used by states to fill funding gaps in their social welfare programs. States use SSBG to fund domestic violence shelters, adoption services, meals-on-wheels, elderly and disabled services and child and adult protective services to name a few. During the debate over welfare reform, Congress guaranteed the states that it would fund SSBG at \$2.38 billion and that states could transfer 10% of their TANF dollars into SSBG to develop the support network necessary to families in transition from dependence to independence. However, to pay for last year's transportation bill, SSBG's authorization was cut to \$1.7 billion and the transfer was reduced to 4.25%. While the level is lower than that I advocate for in my legislation, H.R. 4481, the House actually funded SSBG at its new authorization level of

\$1.7 billion. The Senate however cuts the program by \$1.1 billion to \$600 million. A cut of this magnitude will be devastating to the community organizations that serve some of our most needy constituents. I urge my colleagues to restore full funding to \$2.38 billion and the transfer to 10%.

EDUCATION

The House proposal provides additional resources to many important education programs but its failure to increase the allocation for Title I should be of concern to all Members. Both the President and the Senate provided increases which would enable us to reach as many as 260,000 more children. Further, H.R. 4577 would fund the Teacher Empowerment Act, a block grant of the Eisenhower Professional Development program, Goals 2000 and the President's class-size reduction program, at \$1.75 billion instead of the proposed \$2 billion authorization level. If Republicans are going to advocate for block granting similar pots of money—which I support—we must adequately fund the whole. As we have seen with TANF, Congress must abide by our promises and fully fund these programs if the new flexibility granted is to matter to kids, teachers and taxpayers. This cut of \$300 million sets a very dangerous precedent for those who strongly support block grants and I hope my colleagues will reconsider this funding level.

However, there are many programs which received increased funding from the Committee. The bill increases the average Pell Grant to \$3,500, its highest level in history. Republicans have increased the Pell Grant, which saw cuts when the Democrats controlled both the White House and the Congress, by \$1,200, or 50% since assuming the majority in 1995. Further, while the bill doesn't provide the additional \$2 billion in funding agreed to by the House for IDEA, it does increase funding by \$500 million. If there is one program that comes up in every meeting I have had with teachers and administrators in my district, it is IDEA. The increase of \$500 million is a step in the right direction. I also applaud the Head Start increase of \$400 million or 7.5% and the TRIO program increase of an additional \$115 million over FY00.

Given the challenge presented to the committee by the budget resolution, they did a commendable job on this bill. However, many of its funding levels are inadequate and must grow through the process or I will vote against sending this bill to the President. Again, I will support this proposal because I believe that in the end we will have a bill that reflects our priorities—education, health care, and job training.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 14, 2000*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 4578) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word and rise to support this amendment that helps provide for our states and local communities.

While I support all the funding increases in this amendment, the increase in the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program is of particular interest. Last year, we approved an amendment to increase PILT by twenty million dollars and came out of conference with a ten million dollar increase. This amendment will add ten million dollars to last year's appropriation, the base amount in this legislation.

The federal government has a responsibility in law to help support local governments in areas where the federal government owns the land, thus removing it from the local tax base. We all know, despite the hard work and tough decisions of Chairman REGULA's subcommittee, that appropriations for PILT have not kept up with the authorized amounts. An increase of ten million dollars will not close this gap, but it will provide much-needed assistance to local governments.

For the residents and government of Edmonson County in my district in Kentucky, the support from PILT is essential. Edmonson County is home to Mammoth Cave National Park. While the park draws many visitors to this rural area, Edmonson County's small population and low per capita income make it difficult for local taxpayers to provide basic services, from waste management to emergency services. The support from an increase in PILT will keep the cost of these services more bearable to local taxpayers.

PILT funds help support a 24-hour ambulance service for the National Park and county residents. Federal land ownership has contributed to the isolation of much of Edmonson County. When major transportation routes expanded in the past, the county was bypassed in favor of areas with a larger property tax base to support the projects. Equitable PILT payments are needed to add to the tax base Edmonson County has given up for the National Park as the area faces new challenges for economic development.

The situation faced by Edmonson County is far from unique. As the federal government continues to place responsibilities on local governments, PILT increases are necessary to relieve local taxpayers across the country, most of them in rural areas. The Bureau of Land Management reports property taxes would provide local governments with one dollar and forty-eight cents per acre. PILT payments are far below that amount per acre. It is difficult to explain to constituents why PILT appropriations have not followed the amounts authorized when they have not even come close. It is difficult to explain why Congress creates new programs when we are not funding the ones already in existence.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this amendment. By doing so you add \$10 million dollars to PILT to aid local taxpayers in rural areas and fulfill a pledge made by the federal government.

## COMMENDING THE T.C. WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL CREW TEAM

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 19, 2000*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I commend the Women's Lightweight Eight Crew of T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, VA, for their fine season this spring. The T.C. lightweight crew captured gold medals at the Virginia State Championships, the prestigious Stotesbury Cup Regatta in Philadelphia, and the Scholastic Rowing Association of America championship. They followed these triumphs with a silver medal at the Canadian Secondary Rowing Association Championship at St. Catherine's, Ontario.

Their success this year continues a tradition of strong lightweight rowing at T.C. Williams High School. The Women's Eight has captured gold medals at Stotesbury and the Scholastic Rowing Association for three of the last four years.

This lightweight crew excels not only athletically but in their academic work as well. The crew has a collective grade point average that is close to 4.0. Crew members are: Jo Beck, Mary Higgins, Carter Kidd, Riley McDonald, Janie Roden, Kaitlin Donley, Catherine Freeman, Anna Gullickson, and Clare McIntyre.

The coach of the Women's Lightweight Eight, Steve Weir, completed his 25th year coaching women at T.C. Steve has had unparalleled success, winning the Stotesbury Cup for lightweights 12 out of 18 attempts. Parents of the girls who row for Steve say that he has had a major impact on their lives both athletically and in other aspects through the example of his integrity and devotion to excellence.

I am very proud of Steve Weir and his fine crew.

## IN HONOR OF NAOMI GRAY

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 19, 2000*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Naomi Gray's contributions to the Citizens' Advisory Commission to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Point Reyes National Seashore as she steps down after nearly six years of service. Ms. Gray has been a consistent leader in the fight to make our National Parks a treasure for all of our citizens. Throughout her entire illustrious career, she has sought to make our world more just, and it is my honor to commend this dedicated San Franciscan.

Naomi Gray served as one of the original members of the Board of Directors of the Fort Mason Foundation, which oversees one of the first urban National Parks in the country. On the Board, Naomi consistently worked to ensure that the Center offered programs and services of interest to persons from a wide variety of cultural backgrounds.

Because of her outstanding service at the Forest Mason Foundation and her years of

dedicated community activism, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt selected Naomi in 1994 to sit on the Citizens' Advisory Commission to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Point Reyes National Seashore. On this commission, she served as chair of the Diversity Committee and as a member of the Presidio Committee. She brought to the Commission a concern for how our National Parks are perceived and how they can be made more welcoming to minority communities. Her work helped to open the Golden Gate National Recreation Area to all of our citizens.

Naomi's work on the Citizens' Advisory Commission is just one of her many activities in public service. She has worked much of her life to advance the cause of public health. After serving as the Director of Field Services for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, she became the first women Vice-President of the organization. With Planned Parenthood, she coordinated the work of more than 250 family planning affiliates in the United States and consulted with many international family planning programs.

In 1985, San Francisco established its first Health Commission, and Naomi was selected as a founding member. Naomi became a Vice-President of the Commission, chaired its Budget Committee, and worked to strengthen and improve the Department of Public Health's Affirmative Action programs. Her service was so exemplary that, upon her retirement from the Commission, Mayor Frank Jordan was moved to declare October 8, 1992, as "Naomi Gray Day" in San Francisco.

Ms. Gray has also dedicated her significant talent and energy to working on issues of importance to the African-American community. In 1991 she helped establish the Sojourner Truth Foster Family Service Agency to care for African-American foster children and later founded the Urban Institute for African-American Affairs. She is the founder of the Black Coalition on AIDS, a member of the Black Chamber of Commerce, a member and past President of the San Francisco Black Leadership Forum, and has served on San Francisco's African-American Child Task Force.

Mr. Speaker, Naomi Gray's thoughtful contributions to the Citizens' Advisory Commission will be sorely missed. Undoubtedly, however, she will continue her work on behalf of the people of San Francisco in a new forum and with renewed energy. She is a tireless fighter, and our City is fortunate to have her. I wish her all of the best.

## TRIBUTE TO NADIA SHAKOOR

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 19, 2000*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to commend Nadia Shakoor of Springfield, IL for being selected as a finalist in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. She was one of 1,200 students from over 40 countries who traveled to Detroit, MI to compete for more than \$2 million in awards and scholarships.

As a teacher myself, I want to recognize Nadia for her academic achievement. Her success has not come without hard work though.